

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class
CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR
 THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1935

THE BUCK DEER EATS HIS ANTLERS,
 SAYS WEST VIRGINIA NATURALIST

When a buck deer sheds his antlers he eats them, according to J. H. Johnston, state ornithologist and wildlife authority. In proving this Mr. Johnston settles a long controversy among naturalists and solves a mystery.

The means whereby Mr. Johnston is going about proving the facts that have come under his own observation is by taking motion pictures of the process. He already has an accumulation of film and is soon to complete the series at the state game preserve in Upshur county where the bucks are soon to shed the furry covering of their new antlers.

Each spring the bucks shed their antlers. They just get loose and fall, or are rubbed off. Then a new set grows, becoming fully matured in about three months. For years hunters and foresters have marveled at the fact that never is an antler found in the woods.

Mr. Johnston has seen bucks eat the fallen antlers, or sometimes bury them as a dog would a bone, to later return and eat them. They do this the naturalist thinks, because they feel the need of the calcium that in part composes the bony structure.

The foregoing is clipped from the Charleston Gazette. I am just a wonderer if Mr. Johnston recognized his brain child after it was raised and printed by some young reporter. I will say that reporter is more familiar with the bright lights of Charleston's crowded thoroughfares than shady solitudes where wild deer dwell.

Before I read the paper carrying that interview, my friend John Buckley, of the mouth of Swago, was in town to tell me the findings did not agree with his observation and experience of more than seventy years in the woods. And so say I, it does not catch in with my limited observation and experience.

In his time Mr. Buckley has found scores of discarded antlers, and I have picked up some too. He has found them so recently shed, there was still blood stain where it had broken from the head; he has found them in all states, from perfect condition to mere remnants from the gnawing of rodents. He has had the unusual experience of finding both beams at the same place, and that is rare indeed.

Years ago Mr. Buckley killed a five snag buck at the Forks of Griffin Run in Buckley Mountain. He had a wild young horse to carry the deer home on, and so had to leave the head in the woods. He carefully hung the antlers in a forked dog-wood, expecting to return for them. He did not chance to return until the next spring. He found them so badly gnawed by fairydiddles, he just let them hang. When deer hunting came around again next fall, he was by the place again and noted that the squirrels had eaten the big antlers down to mere stubs against the skull bone.

I have never noticed that house rats had any particular taste for deer horns, though I have seen where they have sharpened their cutting teeth on them. The gnawers of the woods appear to highly appreciate deer horns and for more than mere whetstones, I have always thought. They probably need in their internal economy the lime and salt and other chemicals the horns contain.

The antler of a deer is about the hardest bone there is. The weak nipping teeth of a cud chewer would have less effect than a tilly barlow on chromium steel. A deer has abraded grinders but the branching antlers would certainly make unhandy chewing. Besides, of all the many shed deer horns I have seen, and most, all with mice marks on them, never one do I recall that showed signs of crushing teeth of a cud chewer. Sincere observation, of course, is proof of nothing, other than straws on water.

To give idea of the hardness and lasting qualities of antler material, I have the rodent gnawed stub of an elk horn picked up on Black Mountain full eighty years after elk were gone from these woods.

I well know that cow beasts are always developing a depraved taste for bones; presumably from a lack of lime or phosphorus and what not in food supplies. Chickens acquire the feather eating habit, and I have known people who chewed finger nails. By means of moving pictures it could be easily shown that cows eat bones, old leather and rusty nails. Under unnatural semi-domesticated conditions of park life, I can realize how deer—does and bucks alike—may look around for old bones and horns to gum and slobber over to satisfy a natural hankering for lime, phosphorus, and such. However for science to surmise our deer are regular, natural horn eaters is going farther than my observation and experience with deer in his native haunts will allow just yet.

In my possession is a head of deer horns that is a seven day wonder to all old hunters when they are told the teeth marks were on the points when the big buck was knocked down on the Brushy Mountain end of the Beaver Lick, nearly thirty years ago. Each point but the thumbs is nibbled and the ends of the beams are nibbled back to where they are almost an inch in diameter. I confess I was at a loss to guess how come a big live buck would stand to let his points be nibbled back by chewing in any such way, unless it was done when the antlers were soft in the velvet by another deer with morbid cannibalistic appetite.

I put the matter up to the late Granville Keller, and he said it was no new thing to him. Two buck deer had summered together and had their horn drying beds, side by side. One had got to licking the other's horns for the taste of the salt, and then got to biting deeper. The one

ONE THING AND ANOTHER

Craig Friel

Should some one tell you that when it rains on Whit Sunday, it will rain every Sunday for seven weeks, doubt him not for he speaketh with great wisdom. It did, it has, and it still is.

It does not greatly lessen my sorrow when the editor comes out and says that dew drops come in wet and we are in for forty days more of rain and I ain't even got a Noah's ark, "newspaper talk" and no more reliable than the weather report that says, "Fair today and Sunday."

One thing the newspapers are full of these days is fighting talk. Every body wants to fight somebody else. Mussolini is determined to "discover" Ethiopia and light them out of their land like we did the Indians in this country. Japan, with a pretty good edge on the graft in Ethiopia and a rather inflated idea of her own greatness may butt in and make it some interesting for Italia. Russia might figure it a good time to slip in and get Japan by the hind leg while the getting is good.

Then there is Hitler who has gone the Kaiser one better. With the Kaiser it was, "Me undt Got," while with Hitler it is just ME. He fights the Jews and Catholics because they worship God instead of Hitler. Hitler may get his name in history but it will just be a name in nineteen hundred years. We may get something else long before that.

Then there is Congress and the Senate. They fight among themselves and even the Democrats down at Charleston are kicking each other out of bed, while we Republicans hang around on the outside, dreaming of the time when we can catch them napping and kick them all out so we can do a good job of family fighting.

Then there is the guy that kills his wife so he can run around with some other woman—that great American tragedy stuff. Still, to drown one's wife is a queer kind of their wives by slow degrees and inches, and the law can't get a hold on them—that is man made law.

Yes, it looks like war alright, but for the love of Mike let it stay in Europe, Asia, or any place but America. A lot of men will die and we'll never get through paying for the last war.

If anyone in America wants to risk money on those guys, let them figure on doing their own fighting. We will never get through paying for the last war.

There are, of course, some who would, for selfish reasons welcome a war in the hopes of personal gain, but they are few and cannot have a war if the majority of people keep their shirts on and do their own thinking. Let's not mistake patriotism for propaganda. They look a good bit alike.

Let us imagine a column of soldiers marching by a given point. A column ten deep, two seconds apart, marching steadily for forty-six days. That is the toll of soldiers killed in the last war. Two thousand men working for forty years at an annual wage of \$2,500 each, would not quite pay the cost of the war for just one day.

The total cost of all participating in the last war was equal to almost twenty thousand dollars for every hour since the birth of Christ. He said, "Love your enemies." He also gave us the Golden Rule.

We slept peacefully through 1914 as we drifted toward the water-fall. And they say history repeats.

There is another little war brewing here in Pocahontas which is scheduled to start about the last of August.

Ernest Sharp who dictates for the ancient and honorable Frost soccer team has been making a good bit of noise about his team in the last few years, and living near the top of Pad-

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dy's Knob they have kinda got the habit of looking down on the other teams as it were, and Manager H. Keller of the Celestine team at Cumberland is getting dogged tired of so much noise, and he is fitting out an expedition with which to invade the mountain fastness and show this here Sharp "King of Kings" that maybe he ain't as hot as he thinks he is. Sharp, however, says, "Show me", and so on Friday and Saturday of Fair week—some thing is going to happen.

Being in my home country, my standing as a prophet is just zero, so about the only way to get right on this subject is to go to the Fair and see it.

One thing is certain, it will be a ball game. The Cumberland team came out second in the final playoff in the east last season, losing to Luke V. d. by a small margin in the finals. They are good, and they will not consider a game with any team that does not rate high.

Frost seems as strong as ever, and that is saying a good deal, as their record down through the years will show. The old team was Leavitt, but the present team makes up in speed and durability.

A list of all the players since the beginning of the Frost team would be interesting, as it would include many of our county's best men, some of whom have made prominent places for themselves in the business and political world, but a list of all players would be hard to get.

The lineup for this year will probably be: Lyle Sharp and Earl Sharp, F. F. Clyde Russard, Gilmer Sharp, Sam Pennybaeker, H. B. Rex Sharp, Blair Sharp, Chas. Curry, Basil Sharp, Clyde Townsend, Forwards, Hippy Marshall Goal.

Subs are, Mitchell Sharp, Floyd Dilley Jr., Kyle Sharp and Woodrow Herold.

Leut. Riley of the C. C. U. will referee. And that is enough for this week. If we must have war, let it be a friendly war, with a ball filled with Pocahontas air instead of poison gas.

Football is all right. General Sherman told us what war is.

Charleston — The Conservation Commission has just finished compiling the game protectors reports for the fiscal year from July 1, 1934 to July 1, 1935 and the following is the result:

Arrests 1,564.
 Convictions 1,223
 Dismissed 267
 Number fined 804
 Amount of fines \$14,896.50
 Jailed 335.
 Number of days jailed 5,368 or an average of 16 days per man.

In Pocahontas county 43 arrests, 27 convicted, 16 dismissed, 14 fined, \$330.00 total fines and 9 were sent to jail for a total of 450 days; an average of 50 days each.

They now have over 2600 wild turkeys, several deer and several hundred quail and ring necked pheasants hatched out and Melton, the superintendent, reports that they are all doing fine. Game farm.

The commission has made quite a few improvements at the farm this year in buildings, roads and road improvements and it will be an interesting place for the delegates to visit at the West Virginia Affiliated Sportsmen's Association Convention on September 13th and 14th.

Friends of E. Dan Fariss, one time resident of the Marlinton section will be interested to learn that he is now located on Long Island, not far distant from New York City, in the little village of Mattituck.

Rumor has it that Mr. Farris has won the heart of a charming young widow of that vicinity, and that the romance will lead to a wedding in the near future seems to be a foregone conclusion. May they live happily ever after is the wish of their many friends.

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Forms a seamless, waterproof coating that restores old roofs and will last for years

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Marlinton, West Va.

"The Good Fairy"

In "The Good Fairy," which comes Sunday to the Seneca Theatre and in which Margaret Sullivan is starred with Herbert Marshall, the character that she plays, Lu, was inspired by looking at romantic and heroic motion pictures to become "The Good Fairy." You see, Lu is a theatre usherette. Her outlook on life is very much circumscribed, but the screen opens to her a world of opportunity to do good deeds. While the flicker romance is on the screen, a tremendous determination to help others grows in Lu's heart, until she is inspired to do the most amazing, most unconventional and most dangerous things, all for the good of other people, and all without any selfish interest or thought of the position in which she might be placed.

This coy idea was coined by Ferene Molnar, famous European author. It was played on the stage, with great success by Helen Hayes. It has been brought to the screen by Margaret Sullivan under the direction of William Wyler, to whom she has also entrusted her future happiness.

STONY BOTTOM NEWS

Misses Mary Talley, Vallie Beverage, Mrs. Annie Grace Ray and Mrs. Anne Bailey, of Covington, Virginia, were visiting relatives here last weekend. Mrs. Bailey will remain for a few weeks.

Little Miss Inez Moore, of Marlinton, is the guest of "Billy" Bumgardner this week.

Mrs. F. L. Cowherd and son, Eugene of Seebert, spent Monday with Mrs. D. L. Beverage.

Mrs. Willie Gibson and daughter, Louise, of Elk, spent a few days last week with relatives.

I. B. Bumgardner and Virgie Lind say were in Culpeper, Virginia, last week. On their return they were accompanied by Kenneth Bumgardner who has been visiting in Virginia for some time.

Insure Your Car

For the kind of protection you need, for your Automobile. See Moody Kincaid, Representing Town and Village Automobile Insurance Company, of Columbus, Ohio.

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1 5 passenger Pontiac sedan, 1930 model, in first class condition. New tires. Would consider a trade for livestock. Apply to E. M. Richardson, Marlinton, W. Va.

Application For Pardon NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on or about the 31st day of July 1935, an application will be filed with F. R. Hill, Pardon Attorney, Charleston, for the Pardon of Houston Jefferson convicted of crime of Malicious Wounding, at the October Term, 1934, of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County and sentenced to imprisonment in the West Virginia Penitentiary for a term of 2 years.

Lady Took Cardui When Weak, Nervous

"I can't say enough for Cardui if I talked all day," enthusiastically writes Mrs. L. H. Caldwell, of Statesville, N. C. "I have used Cardui at intervals for twenty-five years," she adds. "My trouble in the beginning was weakness and nervousness. I read of Cardui in a newspaper and decided right then to try it. It seemed before I had taken half a bottle of Cardui I was stronger and was soon up and around."

Thousands of women testify Cardui benefited them. If it does not benefit YOU, consult a physician.

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 Marlinton, W. Va.

ADOLPH COOPER
 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
 Marlinton, W. Va.

A. C. BARLOW
 Veterinarian and Dentist
 R. F. D. 1, Marlinton, W. Va.

M. C. SMITH
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NOTICE

To the Creditors and Beneficiaries of the Estate of B. B. Campbell, deceased:

All persons having claims against the Estate of B. B. Campbell, deceased whether due or not, are notified to exhibit the same, with the voucher thereof, legally verified, to the undersigned at his office in the town of Marlinton, Pocahontas county, West Virginia, on or before the 16th day of January, 1936; otherwise they may be lawfully excluded from the benefit of said estate. All beneficiaries of said estate are notified to be present on said day to protect their interests.

Given under my hand this 16th day of July 1935.

T. S. McNeel,
 Commissioner of Accounts
 of Pocahontas County.

Z. S. Smith
 Undertaker and Funeral Director
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W. A. BARLOW
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 Veterinary Surgeon
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 Graduate of U. S. Veterinary College. All calls answered, day or night.

Automobile Insurance

For all kinds of Automobile Insurance see D. B. Hamann, care Barber's Garage, Marlinton, W. Va. Representing State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co. of Bloomington, Ill.

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Reasonable rates, Best grade materials, and quick service. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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I will be in the raspberry business as usual, delivering to Marlinton and Hillsboro. Place your orders early by phone or mail.

C. L. Armstrong,
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Small Farm For Sale

22 1/2 acres of land, 4 miles from Marlinton on Cloverlick road. 3 room new cottage, outbuildings, fruit, wood, water, etc., well fenced. Will sell at a bargain.

R. B. Miller,
 Marlinton, W. Va.

Notice To Contractors

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned County Superintendent of Schools will receive bids to be referred to the County Board of Education for acceptance or rejection until 2:00 p. m. Tuesday, August 6, for the transportation of school children on the following bus lines:

Wesley Chapel North Fork-Greenbank
 Thornwood Bartow Durbin
 Bartow-Durbin
 Lotella Hillsboro.

C. E. Flynn,
 Superintendent.

PIANOS. We are having returned to us two practically new pianos on account of original purchaser's inability to continue their contracts. Rather than reship to the factory, we will transfer these fine pianos to responsible parties for small unpaid balance owing, cash or terms. Quick action necessary. Address A. D. Mack, care of Lester Piano Factory, 1306 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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We take the right amounts of the right kinds of four types of tobacco—Bright, Burley, Maryland and Turkish.

It is this balancing of tobaccos that makes Chesterfields milder and makes them taste better.



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